

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

### Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Trustees of Sycamore Township Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio

Wednesday, July 18, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Schwegmann.

Present for the meeting were Chairman Schwegmann, Vice Chairman Weidman, Trustee James, Fiscal Officer Deters, Assistant Law Director Katherine Barbieri, Administrator Kellums, Superintendent Reutelshofer, Planning & Zoning Inspector Clark, Fire Chief Penny, and Lt. Tarr from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Planning & Zoning Administrator Uckotter was absent.

The invocation from Bethel Baptist Temple was read by Mr. Kellums.

Pledge to the Flag.

#### **Approval of the July 5, 2023, Zoning Public Hearing Minutes**

The July 5, 2023, Zoning Public Hearing minutes were presented for approval. Mr. Weidman made a motion to accept them, seconded by Mr. James.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Abstain; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

#### **Approval of the July 5, 2023, 2024 Tax Budget Public Hearing Minutes**

The July 5, 2023, 2024 Tax Budget Public Hearing minutes were presented for approval. Mr. Weidman made a motion to accept them, seconded by Mr. James.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Abstain; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

#### **Approval of the July 5, 2023, Trustee Meeting Minutes**

The July 5, 2023, Trustee Meeting minutes were presented for approval. Mr. Weidman made a motion to accept them, seconded by Mr. James.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Abstain; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

#### **Public Comments**

No members of the public signed up to speak.

#### **Sheriff Patrol Report**

Lt. Tarr reported all the parts are in for the printers in the cruisers for the citation program. He stated the printers will be installed this week. He said the officers will go through a training on the process and they should be deployed late July or early August.

#### **EMS/Fire Report**

Chief Penny reported the last three part-time firefighters have gone through testing and been fitted with gear, so the department now has five of them on schedule. He said they are working very well, have been sharing their positive impression of the department with others who may be interested in coming on board part-time, and are interested in full-time if that becomes available.

Mr. Weidman asked if they would stay on board part-time once they were hired full-time at another department.

Chief Penny answered that is unlikely but possible once they are settled in their full-time positions. He described staffing issues many departments face.

### **Planning & Zoning Report**

Mr. Clark reported on a nuisance vehicle and nuisance properties that were the subject of resolutions for the Board's consideration.

#### **Resolution – 12095 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Nuisance Vehicle**

The resolution "Providing for the Removal of a Junk Vehicle(s) and the Proper Disposal, Storage or Impoundment of a Motor Vehicle(s) for the Property Located at 12095 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Sycamore Township, Ohio 45249 by Implementing the Procedures Set Forth in Sycamore Township Resolution 2012-14, and Sections §§ 505.173, 505.85, and 505.871 of the Ohio Revised Code" was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James, dispensing with a second reading.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye  
Resolution 2023-057 passed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023

#### **Resolution – 12195 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Nuisance Property**

The resolution "Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage, Refuse, and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 12195 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Sycamore Township, Ohio 45249" was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James, dispensing with a second reading.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye  
Resolution 2023-058 passed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023

#### **Resolution – 4566 Lamont Avenue Nuisance Property**

The resolution "Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage, Refuse, and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 4566 Lamont Avenue, Sycamore Township, Ohio 45242" was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James, dispensing with a second reading.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye  
Resolution 2023-059 passed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023

#### **Resolution – 7600 Montgomery Road Nuisance Property**

The resolution "Providing for and Authorizing Removal of Vegetation, Garbage, Refuse, and Other Debris and Declaring a Nuisance for the Property Located at 7600 Montgomery Road, Sycamore Township, Ohio 45236" was presented by Mr. Kellums. Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James, dispensing with a second reading.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye  
Resolution 2023-060 passed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023

### **Roads, Maintenance & Recreation Report**

Mr. Reutelshofer reported that the 2023 Festival in Sycamore was a great success and well attended; a good community event. He thanked Foremen Mark Homan and Dan Lehane, Parks Supervisor Jason Petty, and all Township maintenance staff for the time and effort they put into this event.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported the Township's 2023 Road Program will begin this week. He said no parking signs were posted on Monday and work will be done in the southern section this Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Reutelshofer stated no parking signs will be posted in the northern section on Wednesday with work scheduled for Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> through Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. He noted that is the first phase of the project. He said the second phase will begin Tuesday of next week, and the contractor will get a more detailed schedule for that to the residents at that time.

Mr. Kellums stated, in case the Board receives any calls from residents, the first phase includes a lot of gravel on the roads, which will be microsurfaced in phase two.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported the Montgomery Road Sidewalk Improvements Project from Stewart Road to Ken Arbore Road is expected to be finished next week.

Mr. Reutelshofer reported the Gideon Lane Culvert Project began last week. The contractor is making good progress and hopes the project will be completed in six weeks.

#### **Resolution – Engineering Services for Traffic Signal Improvements**

The resolution "Authorizing a Contract with TEC Engineering, Inc. for Engineering Services and Dispensing with a Second Reading" was presented by Mr. Reutelshofer.

Mr. Reutelshofer noted this is to install emergency vehicle preemption at all 44 signaled intersections in Sycamore Township. He reported the Township was awarded a \$658,555.00 Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant for this project with a 20 percent match from the Township.

Mr. James asked if the Orchard Lane intersection would be included in this project.

Mr. Kellums answered yes, saying every intersection in Sycamore Township with a traffic signal would be included in the project.

Mr. Reutelshofer stated some of the intersections are under the jurisdiction of other municipalities therefore, the Township will be working with them to get permission and on future maintenance agreements.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. James.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye  
Resolution 2023-061 passed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023

#### **Law Director Report**

Ms. Barbieri stated the Law Director's office had nothing to report.

**Administrator Report**  
**Ginnala Court Parking**

Mr. Kellums reported there was a complaint last week about cars parked on both sides of Ginnala Court making it impossible for emergency vehicles to get through. He said this was due to a large event with six swim clubs involved at Kenwood Swim Club, which they sponsor two out of every ten years. He said he had a request for no parking fire lane signs to be installed on that street. He stated Chief Penny looked at the street and did not see a problem. Mr. Kellums stated, since the swim club will only host this large of an event every five years or so, he would prefer to keep in communication with the swim club and post temporary no parking signs instead of restricting parking all the time on Ginnala Court.

Chief Penny agreed with the temporary sign idea and Lt. Tarr noted the complainant was not aware this was an isolated event at the swim club.

The Board agreed with Mr. Kellums' recommendation to keep communication open with the swim club and restrict parking only temporarily in the event of a very large event there.

**Trustee Meeting Date Change**

Mr. Kellums requested a motion to change the Trustee Meeting date from September 5<sup>th</sup>, the day after Labor Day, to August 29<sup>th</sup>, due to a lack of a quorum. He noted the JEDD, JEDZ and CIC meetings originally scheduled for September had already been moved to August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to move the first Trustee meeting in September to August 29, 2023.

Mr. James asked if the new date would then be a special meeting since it deviates from the original date.

Ms. Barbieri answered no.

Mr. James seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

**Expiring JEDD Term (08/10/2023)**

Mr. Kellums reported the next JEDD meeting is on August 29<sup>th</sup> and the original Township representative to that Board's term expires on August 10<sup>th</sup>. He requested a motion to either re-appoint or appoint a Township representative to fill that position.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to appoint Tracy Schwegmann as the Township representative on the JEDD Board. Mr. James seconded the motion.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

Mr. Kellums reported DJ Stone did a fantastic job on the Kenwood Towne Centre retaining wall repairs.

Mr. Kellums reported on Flock cameras which are used by the Sheriff's Office. He stated that the cameras track a license plate, a type or color of car, and go from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. He said we currently have five such cameras in the Township that the Sheriff's Office is paying for; four in the southern section of the Township and one on Fields Ertel. Mr. Kellums said he has been speaking with the Sheriff's Office and representatives of Flock about the possibility of installing more cameras in the

Township, especially by the Kenwood Towne Centre. He said the cost to use the Flock cameras is \$3,000.00 per year or \$1,500.00 per year if we use our own cameras with the Flock service. He said we currently have eight cameras we could use with Flock. Mr. Kellums pointed out other Townships include this in their Sheriff's contract. He stated he would like to gauge the Trustees' interest in additional Flock cameras; especially at Kenwood Towne Centre.

Mr. Weidman said we have been successful with LPRs in the past on that site and we should invest in this so that we can monitor what is going on at Kenwood Towne Centre.

Lt. Tarr explained the benefits of the Flock cameras compared to the LPRs.

Mr. James agreed this would be good for Kenwood Towne Centre and the Kenwood business district but said venturing into residential areas with cameras could upset people.

Lt. Tarr stated that input will be given from the intelligence and organized crime units to ensure the cameras are placed in high-crime areas.

Mr. Kellums will investigate further and bring a quote back to the Board.

Mr. James requested the proposed locations for the cameras be presented to the Board as well.

Mr. Kellums agreed.

**Purchase Orders Over \$5,000.00**

Mr. Kellums presented the following purchase order over \$5,000.00 for approval:

23-69-2	Blanket Vendor	Fire Contracts	\$25,000.00
23-138	Choice One Engineering	School & Solzman Sidewalks	\$178,184.00
23-139	DJ Stone Company	KTC Retaining Wall Repair	\$47,754.00

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve purchase orders over \$5,000.00 as listed. Mr. James seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

**Fiscal Officer Report**

**Pay Bills and Read Receipts**

The receipts in the amount of \$538,652.19 and disbursements in the amount of \$732,528.41 for July 18, 2023, were read by Mr. Deters and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

I hereby certify that the money for payment of these bills is in the fund provided and duly and properly appropriated.

Signed:   
Jonathan T. Deters, Fiscal Officer

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve the receipts and disbursements. Mr. James seconded the motion. Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

### **Trustees Comments**

Mr. Weidman thanked Mr. Reutelshofer, Township staff and volunteers for their great effort on the Festival. He stated when he and Ms. Schwegmann walked door-to-door, the one question they were asked more than anything else was when the Festival in Sycamore would be brought back. Mr. Weidman stated he had many people thank him at the festival itself for bringing it back to the Township. He said it is a great family event and, on both nights, the kids' area was jammed with people. He thanked everyone for their efforts in organizing and setting it all up. He thanked Mike McKeown as well and said he looks forward to doing it again next year.

Ms. Schwegmann agreed, saying she was there for many hours both days and heard nothing but great feedback from the residents. She said the lines for the rides were extensive and noted she received many text messages saying it was a great event and thanking her. She congratulated the staff and thanked the volunteers and the vendors who came back after a hiatus.

Mr. James stated that the event was very well planned and executed and said he is glad it was a success. He stated the budget was more reasonable than in years past, which is good for the taxpayers. Mr. James said Township staff presented themselves well and the event went well overall.

Ms. Schwegmann also thanked Tire Discounters, Kroger, TEC engineering, and all the sponsors for making the event possible.

Mr. Weidman added the small event grant from Hamilton County.

Mr. Kellums stated that thank you letters will be going out to all the sponsors.

### **Announcements**

Ms. Schwegmann announced the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Sycamore Township Car Show takes place August 5, 2023 at the Schuler Sports Complex. She encouraged people to see the website calendar for other meeting and event information.

Mr. Kellums announced the fall compost giveaway has been canceled due to lack of distributable materials. He said there are a lot of leaves there, but they have not broken down enough to distribute as compost.

### **Executive Session**

Ms. Schwegmann made a motion to adjourn into executive session as permitted by Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) to consider the employment and compensation of a public employee. Mr. Weidman seconded the motion.

Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: Mr. James: Aye; Ms. Schwegmann: Aye; Mr. Weidman: Aye

Mr. Deters, Ms. Barbieri, and Mr. Kellums were invited into the executive session with the three Trustees.

End Regular Session: 7:33 p.m.  
Begin Executive Session: 7:35 p.m.  
End Executive Session: 7:49 p.m.  
Back in Regular Session: 7:51 p.m.

Mr. Deters called roll. All three Trustees indicated they were present.

Ms. Schwegmann said no action will be taken this evening.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. James.  
Mr. Deters called roll. Vote: James: Aye; Schwegmann: Aye; Weidman: Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.



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Tracy Schwegmann, Chairman



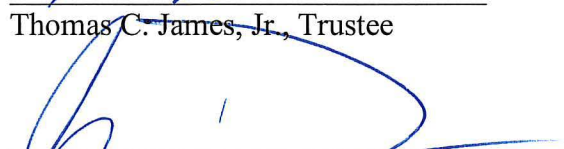
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Thomas J. Weidman, Vice Chairman



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Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee



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Jonathan T. Deters, Fiscal Officer  
Regular Meeting 07/18/2023